

Myth 1: Indiana's reforms will allow the State Superintendent to terminate any teacher's contract at any time.

IDOE has not been made aware of such language in any bill, and if it did exist, Dr. Bennett would wholeheartedly oppose it. Personnel decisions of this nature should be made at the local level.



Myth 2: *The state will require school corporations to publish summaries of teacher's evaluations in the local media.*

IDOE has not advocated for the sharing of personally identifiable information. The Department does support school corporations submitting annual reports to IDOE identifying the number of educators placed in each performance category. IDOE would then publish the results in a manner that protects and respects educators privacy.



Myth 3: Indiana's reforms to teacher due process will result in teachers being unfairly dismissed from the classroom.

Our legislative agenda DOES NOT CALL FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DUE PROCESS FOR TEACHERS. Instead, IDOE aims to streamline current due process, align it with the current principal due process, and make it more focused on demonstrated teacher effectiveness based on locally developed, multi-faceted evaluations.



Myth 4: The state will be able to force a school corporation to modify a collective bargaining agreement that it “does not like” and withhold funds if the corporation does not comply.

This idea is not proposed or supported in any legislative proposals that are part of our education agenda.



Myth 5: *The Superintendent of Public Instruction will determine the state funding formula.*

This is completely false. The Superintendent has no such authority. Members of Indiana's General Assembly develop the funding formula.



Myth 6: Students leaving public schools for non-government schools will bankrupt Indiana's public schools.

Public dollars spent on education will continue to follow the student, just like they do in the case of public school transfer students. Since school corporations receive a set amount of tuition support for each of their students each year, they will not be harmed by losing funds, as schools should not require funding for students they no longer educate. It is also worth noting Indiana's non-government schools have very limited capacity to accept new students.



Myth 7: Non-government schools that participate in the opportunity scholarship program will not have the same accountability as public schools.

Participating non-government schools will be held to the same high accountability standards as those to which the state holds public schools. Under this proposal, every participating school must administer the ISTEP to all students and will be assigned a letter grade. Furthermore, IDOE proposes removing from the program schools earning D or F grades in consecutive years.



Myth 8: *Indiana's Education Agenda calls for the repeal of collective bargaining rights.*

This statement is completely false. IDOE has not advocated for the repeal of collective bargaining rights, and our legislative agenda will not include language that calls for the elimination of collective bargaining rights. Our agenda aims to focus collective bargaining agreements on salaries and wage-related benefits to help ensure Indiana's great teachers are getting paid what they deserve to get paid. It will also help schools put students first by eliminating provisions that require administrators to conduct blind draws, roll the dice or the sum of the last four digits of a teacher's Social Security Number to break a tie on seniority when making reduction in force decisions.



Myth 9: *Indiana's Education Agenda deducts money from teacher retirement funds to avoid further cuts to Indiana schools.*

There is no truth to this statement. No one at IDOE has had a discussion surrounding this topic, and I promise no one will.



Myth 10: Indiana's Education Agenda mandates an evaluation system that will evaluate teachers based solely on students' ISTEP+ scores.

IDOE does not support evaluation tools that only take into account student performance on standardized tests.



Myth 11: Indiana's Education Agenda mandates equal percentages of teachers be placed into four performance categories during the evaluation process or places them into categories using a bell curve.

This is absolutely false. The IDOE advocates creating four evaluation categories for teachers and principals: highly effective, effective, improvement necessary, and ineffective. While teachers will be placed into categories based on several performance indicators, there is no model that mandates 25% of teachers be placed into each category.



Myth 12: Indiana's Education Agenda forces schools and school corporations to use a one-size-fits-all evaluation tool.

This couldn't be further from the truth. Indiana's Education Agenda aims to increase local control by allowing school corporations to use evaluation tools that work best within their school communities. IDOE will provide guidance, and will even offer models for consideration, but school corporations will decide for themselves what tools to use.



Myth 13: Indiana's Education Agenda reduces teacher salaries.

This claim is absolutely false. IDOE's legislative proposals seek to enable local school corporations to set up systems to reward teachers with higher pay.



Myth 14: Indiana's Education Agenda takes tenure away from teachers who already have it.

There is no plan to take away tenure from teachers who have earned it under the current system.

